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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,982	04/25/2001	Gerd Hugo	24580	5343
20529	7590	07/01/2008	EXAMINER	
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314				BRUNSMAN, DAVID M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1793		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/840,982	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HUGO, GERD
	<b>Examiner</b> David M. Brunsman	<b>Art Unit</b> 1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,5,7-11,13-16 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11,13-16 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1,2,5,7-11,13-16 and 18 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/89/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20080123
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date, \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: public pair page

Applicant's responses filed 01 October 2007 and 23 January 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 remain subject to examination. The species under consideration remains coating compositions have the recited properties that are a combination of a binder that is emulsions of acrylates, a pigment including phthalocyanine dye and a second pigment that is steel flakes. (See the office action of 01 May 2007).

Comparison of the components of the instant invention to the prior art is complicated by the use of terms such as "first pigment" and "second pigment", etc. in both the instant claims and the prior art. For purposes of clarity, the examiner has relabeled the components to be compared as "(A)"-the binder in the instant claims, "(B)"-first pigment in the instant claims and, "(C)"- the second pigment in the instant claims.

Applicants responses argue that US 6017981 is not available as prior art and that the examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for failing to point out which particular passages in the supporting patents establishing the level of ordinary skill in the art support his conclusion. These arguments are unpersuasive.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6017981. (US Patents 6692824, 3577379, 5962143, 5840364, 5540998 and 5405680 are cited to help establish the level of ordinary skill in the art).

US 6017981 has a section 371 of 17 September 1997, more than one year before the earliest effective filing date of the instant application, October 26, 1998. A copy of the Public Pair webpage showing the correct 371 filing date is attached to this action.

The reference teaches a coating composition comprising a binder having transmission in the thermal infrared range greater than 40% that may be an aqueous dispersion (emulsion) based on various acrylates. See column 4, lines 4-8. Column 2, lines 51-55 teach that the near IR absorbency of the patent composition is due to the particles of component (B) and the following discussion of tinting particles indicates that the composition remains substantially transparent to visible light, overlapping the 40-60% transmission indicated by the instant claims. Applicant has not pointed out any differences between the prior art relied upon and the instant claims not addressed in the prior office action.

Component (B)- the second particle of the reference and the first pigment of the instant claims-may be selected from phthalocyanines (see, column 3, line 65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select pigments based on their known transmission and absorbency characteristics at particular wavelengths to affect the transmission and absorbency characteristics of a coating composition as a whole because the prior art as a whole clearly teaches that it is within the level of ordinary skill

in the art to select these components based on their individual spectral selectivity to make a coating composition having an expected composite of the spectral properties of the components. US 6017981 as a whole and particularly the passages relied upon clearly establish that such selection based on the characteristics falls within the level of ordinary skill in the art. US 6692824 (this patent was published as EP 0548822 on 30 June 1993), 3577379, 5962143, 5840364, 5540998 and 5405680 further establish the level of ordinary skill in the art in that they each exemplify the selection of particular components having known spectral characteristics combined to produce a composition having a composite of those individual characteristics. Simplified, if one selects a pigment that absorbs near IR radiation, a second pigment that absorbs UV radiation and a third pigment that reflects visible light, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that the resulting combination of the three in a coating composition would produce a coating that absorbs IR radiation, absorbs UV radiation and reflects visible light.

Component (C)-the flakey particle of the prior art and second pigment of the instant claims may be selected from flakey particles of stainless steel to affect reflectivity in the thermal IR range. See column 3, line 17. The formula at column 2, lines 32-33 teaches that the high R required by the prior art would require a high ( $\geq 20\%$ ) transmission in the thermal IR range. As with the selection of component (B), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select pigments based on their known transmission and reflectancy characteristics at particular wavelengths to affect the transmission and reflectancy characteristics of a coating composition as a whole because the prior art as a whole clearly teaches that it is within the level of

ordinary skill in the art to select these components based on their individual spectral selectivity to make a coating composition having an expected composite of the spectral properties of the components. US 6017981 as a whole and particularly the passages relied upon clearly establish that such selection based on the characteristics falls within the level of ordinary skill in the art. US 6692824, 3577379, 5962143, 5840364, 5540998 and 5405680 further establish the level of ordinary skill in the art in that they each exemplify the selection of particular components having known spectral characteristics combined to produce a composition having a composite of those individual characteristics. The examiner has explicitly pointed out exemplary relevant passages of the primary reference supporting the finding of the level of ordinary skill in the art. The additional patents cited are *replete* with reference to the expected effects of adding particular pigments having known spectral characteristics and establish that selecting a combination of components to obtain a coating having aggregate properties of each is within the level of ordinary skill in the art. The entirety of each are relevant.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Brunsman whose telephone number is 571-272-1365. The examiner can normally be reached on M, Th, F, Sa; 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David M Brunsman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

DMB